

Key Dates

- Friday 25th January Holocaust Memorial Day (27th)
- Tuesday 29th January – Y5/6 Netball Tournament 4:00pm-5:30pm.
- Wednesday 30th January – Year 11 Maths trip at Northern Sage.
- Thursday 31st January – Y11 and VI Parents' Evening – 4:00pm-6:00pm.
- Tuesday 5th February – Safer Internet Day.
- Tuesday 5th February - Y5/6 Netball Tournament 4:00pm-5:30pm.
- Friday 8th February – Year 4 Family Assembly.
- Tuesday 12th February – Mock Day, Year 10 English Literature.
- Tuesday 12 February – Y5/6 Netball 4:00-5:30pm.
- Friday 15th February – Staff Training Day.
NON PUPIL DAY.

Year 10 English Literature Mock Exams

The Year 10 English Literature mock exams will take place on **Tuesday 12th February**. Students will sit two papers on this day. They have been fully briefed by their English teacher about what to bring to the exam and what will be on each paper.

Please encourage your child to revise for this important rehearsal exam. They have been given revision materials as well as links to useful resources on Show My Homework.

Term Dates and School Time 2019/20

You will be aware we issued term dates for the academic year 2019/20 last week; these are the standard Local Authority term times. As previously stated in a letter to parents in July 2018, the school year will fall into line with the standard 190 teaching days all schools do from 2019/20. This decision was based on the consultation exercise in which parents were asked about their thoughts. The

letter sent to parents in July 2018 is available on the school website: this outlined the results of the consultation exercise and concerns raised by parents: <https://grindonhall.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2016/09/2018-School-day-final.pdf>

The school day will be confirmed in the future, after conversations with potential sponsors have been completed. We will let you know as soon as we can.

Possible Phone Disruption

We have been warned of possible local disruption to landlines between 8.00am and 9.00am on Monday 28 January. A temporary absence line can be used for anyone who cannot get through in the normal way: 0771 5081047. For all other calls, please try later if you experience a problem.

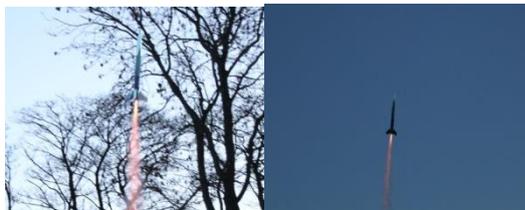
Hot Choc Friday



Members of Year 11 who performed exceptionally well in their mock exams were this week's recipients of Hot Choc Fri. Well done and keep up the hard work!

Stem club shooting for the stars

As regular readers of the school newsletter know, STEM club has been working on rocketry over the last couple of months. Wednesday evening saw the culmination of the students' work and, with a clear evening and good light, we launched our rockets in perfect conditions. Below are some pictures of the event taken by Amy Johnstone – one of our GCSE photography students.



Parachute deployed and an almost graceful descent (it didn't get stuck in the tree!)

Hair raising science



Year 7 were learning about static electricity last week, and below we see a student kindly demonstrating that similar electrostatic charges repel each other. When the student touched the Van

der Graaff generator an electrostatic charge built up on her. As the charge on the student is all the same, the hairs on her head repel each other, making her hair stand up in a rather spectacular fashion.

We are warriors!



Year 4 are currently enjoying the topic 'I am Warrior'. Here is Miss Simpson's class having a fun afternoon exploring their box of Roman artefacts from the Discovery Museum. The items ranged from beautiful oil lamps to creepy knucklebones – which were used in a Roman game.

Y6 Safety Works

Pupils in Year 6 enjoyed a trip to Safety Works in Newcastle to learn how to keep themselves safe in different environments. They learnt how to use the Metro safely, administer basic first aid, how to manage fire



risks in the house and how to make positive choices. Some children even got 'arrested!' The children had a great afternoon with professionals from Northumbrian Police, St John's Ambulance and Nexus.

Tolerance Tree in School

In the Michaelmas term all secondary students were encouraged to consider the importance of tolerance in our society. Sixth formers led tutor group sessions about the 'tolerance tree': a project borne out of Anne Frank's experience under the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands.

Every student wrote a message of tolerance which was then stuck onto our very own tolerance tree and displayed in the foyer.



Anne treasured the opportunity to look at a horse

chestnut tree out of the window of her hiding place in Amsterdam. After her death in a concentration camp, her father, Otto Frank, adopted the symbol of a horse chestnut tree to spread the idea of tolerance rather than hatred.

